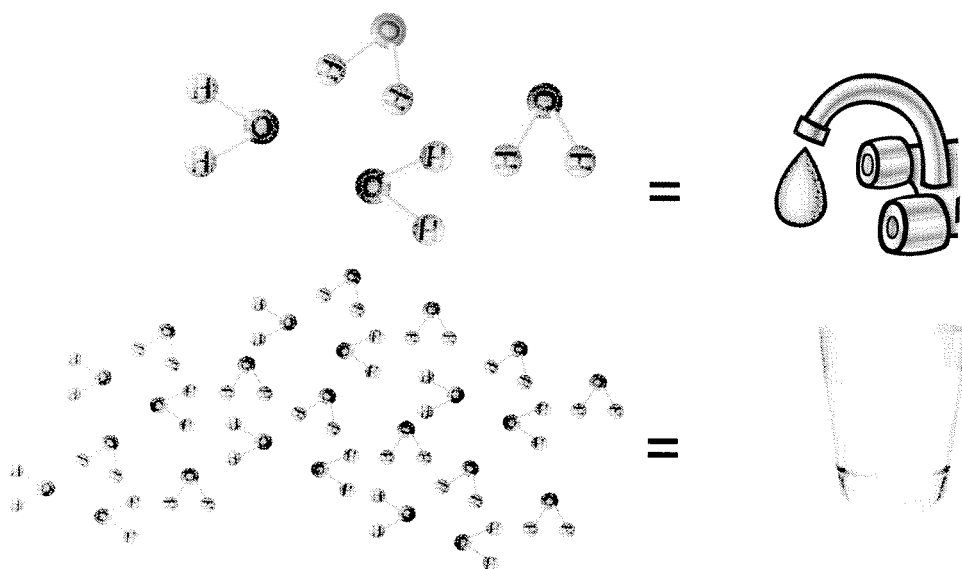


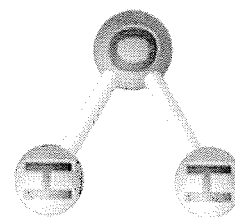
# Molecules

**Atoms** join together to form **molecules**. **Molecules** are simply groups of **atoms** that have bonded together. If these **atoms** are of the same variety, they are **elements**. If these **atoms** are different, then it becomes a **compound**.

So, a **molecule** is the smallest group of **atoms** that still keeps the same identity as a substance. For example, a bunch of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  **molecules** (One oxygen and two Hydrogen **atoms** bonded together) make water. A small amount of these **molecules** can make a drop of water. A very large number fills a glass with water.



The smallest piece you can have, and still have water, is 1 oxygen and 2 hydrogen **atoms**. This is 1 water **molecule**. If you broke it up any further, it would not be water any longer. It would be the individual **atoms** or **elements** of hydrogen and oxygen.



1 molecule

**Molecules** are made from as few as two **atoms** to hundreds of millions of **atoms**. **Molecules** are so small that there are more **molecules** in your body than there are stars in the universe!